

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/02580

Attorney Docket No.: Q84218

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 7 bridging page 8 as follows:

The data processing unit 9 includes: an attribute-information creating means 9a for storing attribute information of pattern parts in a pattern-part-attribute temporary storage unit 10c that will be explained later, when a user has started to drag and drop pattern parts 4 from a pattern part window 3 onto drawing canvas (hereinafter conveniently referred to as canvas) 2 using the mouse 7a; a passing-into-palette determining means 9b for determining whether the pointer of the mouse 7b is in ~~attribute palettes~~ a color palette 5a or a line thickness palette 5b (hereinafter conveniently referred to as palettes 5 or palettes) 5; an attribute-information updating means 9c for updating attribute information of a pattern when the pattern passes through the palette 5; and a pattern-part drawing means 9d for drawing a pattern part 4 on the canvas 2, at the point when the pattern part 4 is dragged and dropped onto the canvas 2 except for the palettes 5 portion. In addition, the storage unit 10 includes: a passing-into palette flag 10a for holding whether the pointer of the mouse 7a is in the palettes 5; a pattern-part-attribute storage unit 10b for holding attribute information of all patterns drawn on the canvas 2; and the pattern-part-attribute temporary storage unit 10c temporarily used for holding attributes in the palettes 5 where the pointer of the mouse 7a has passed through, when the pointer has passed through the palettes in an operation process in which a pattern part 4 is dragged.

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Please replace the second full paragraph on page 10 as follows:

In passing-into-palette determination processing step ST101, the determination processing as to whether the pointer of the mouse 7a has passed into the palette coordinates, is performed by judging whether the x-coordinate and y-coordinate of the mouse 7a have been in the x-coordinate and y-coordinate of the palette. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 8, when the pointer of the mouse 7a on the coordinates of the drawing tool points that the x-coordinate is 800 and the y-coordinate is 400 (point "A" in Fig. 8), the coordinates on the color palette 5a are assumed that the x-coordinate is 600 - 700 and the y-coordinate is 200 - 500. Comparing the y-coordinate of the pointer of the mouse 7a with the y-coordinate on the color palette 5a, the y-coordinate of the pointer of the mouse 7a is in the range of the y-coordinate on the color palette 5a; however, the x-coordinate of the pointer of the mouse 7a is out of the range of the x-coordinate on the color palette 5a.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 12 as follows:

After this, in a case in which the pointer of the mouse 7a passes into the coordinates of the line thickness palette 5b, the passing-into palette flag 10a becomes "1" in step ST101, the attribute-information update processing in step ST103 continues. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 8, in a case in which the pointer of the mouse 7a passes into the coordinates of the line thickness palette 5b, because the pointer of the mouse 7a passes into a portion corresponding to the attribute being "regular" among the attribute display portion in the line thickness palette 5b,

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~~the painting color~~ the outline thickness of the pattern-part-attribute temporary storage unit 10c is updated from "thin" to "regular" in step ST103.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 17 as follows:

Here, in the above described explanation, it has been described in the case where a simple pattern such as a quadrangular pattern or circular pattern has two attributes, which are the painting color and outline ~~color~~ thickness; however, it is understood that the invention is not limited to shapes or kinds of the attributes of patterns as far as the patterns have attributes, and that the invention can be utilized in various kinds of drawing tools. It is also understood that not only "figures" such as a quadrangle or circle but also characters, etc., as pattern parts, can be handled. For example, in a case in which characters as the pattern parts are handled, attributes such as a kind of fonts, font size, underline, fat character, and italic character as the palette can be set by once-time drag-and-drop operation.